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New York, New York Public Library, Spencer Collection, NYPL Spencer 027

Description: Corvinus Livy ff. ii + 224 + ii - Blue morocco with gold tooling by Bradel l'Aine` , early 19th century; gilt edges with painted fore edge possibly done for Matthias Corvinus. - Written for Mathias Corvinus, King of Hungary (1458-90), with his arms on the first page. Chre`tien-Franc$ois de Lamoignon (1735-89); his sale (1791). Sir Thomas Phillipps, his MS 3010. A. Chester Beatty sale, Sotheby's, 9 May 1933, lot 59 to Quaritch. - De Ricci, 1340-1. Bibliotheca Corviniana 1490-1990: Exhibition at the National Szechenyi Library, Budapest (Budapest 1990). W. Allen, Jr., "Four Corvinus Manuscripts in the United States," Bull. of the NYPL42 (1938) 315-23. - Jonathan J. G. Alexander, James H. Marrow and Lucy Freeman Sandler, The Splendor of the Word: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the New York Public Library(London / Turnhout: The New York Public Library / Harvey Miller Publishers, 2005) n. 82.

Notes: -Manuscript is misfoliated at end with two leaves labelled f. 221. Thus although the foliation goes to 223, the number of leaves is 224. Correct foliation is used here, because of the ease of counting to the end after the error.

Acknowledgments: - We thank Prof. Jonathan J. G. Alexander for his extensive work towards the present description of this manuscript.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 4

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/NYPLSpencer027_42

Language: Latin *Country:* Italy *Century:* 15th

Part 1: ff. 1-224v

Description: - Parchment - 359 x 244 mm - 36 long lines per page, ruled in light brown ink, catchwords visible. Collation: one quaternion (ff. 151-8), one ternion (ff. 219-24), and the remaining 21 gatherings are quinternions.

Country: Italy

Cardinal point:

Region: Tuscany

City: Florence

Assigned Date: s. XV$^{4/4}$

Searchable Date Range: 1475 - 1499

Dated by scribe: No

Inscribed Date:

Document: No

Number of Scribes: ;1

Scribe(s): Gianfrancesco Marzi

Script: Humanistic; rustic capitals

Artist(s): Mariano del Buono

Figurative Decoration: Portrait of author on f. 1; putti and animal figures in border design.

Other Decoration: Opening folio has elaborate border design in white vinestem, large initial, and rubrics. Throughout, 9 gold initials on fields of white vinestem, blue, green and pink. 1-line initials in same ink as text.

Notes: Produced ca. 1470-80. The fore edge painting may have been executed in Hungary. Latin

Number of Texts: 1

Text 1: ff. 1-223v

Author: Livy

Title: Ab urbe condita

Title: Titi Livii Patavini De Secundo Bello Punico Liber Primus Incipit.

Language(s): Latin

Incipit: In parte operis mei licet prefari mihi quod in principio

Explicit: Exemplo deinde huius nequaquam victoria pares insignes imaginum titulos claraque cognomina familie fecere. Iohannes Franciscus Martius Geminiane [erasure] est scriptor.

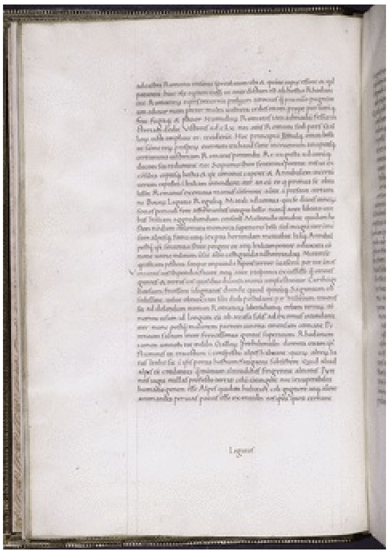
Notes: Contains Third Decade, or Books 21-30, De secundo bello punico



f. 1 Opening of text, with initial and portrait of Livy; border of white vine stem; in the lower margin, the coat of arms of King Matthias Corvinus of Hungary, supported by putti.

View image

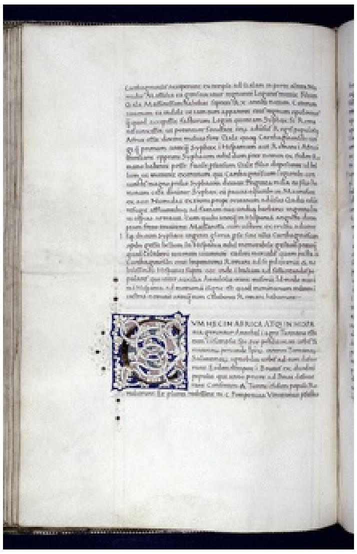
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f. 10v Page of text with centered catchword.

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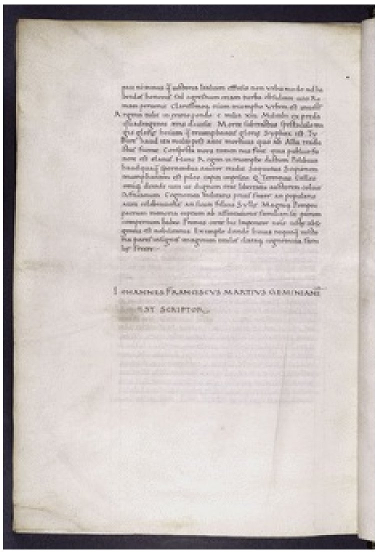
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f. 87v Gold initial on field with white vine stem.

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f. 223v (labelled 222v) Explicit of text, with colophon of scribe Iohannes Franciscus Martius Geminianae (1440-after 1494).

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